

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 06945 121452Z

47

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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P R 121425Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5766

INFO PANCANAL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PN, CU

SUBJECT: CUBAN VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TORRAS MAKES
LOW PROFILE VISIT TO PANAMA

1. CUBAN VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PELEGRIN TORRAS, ARRIVED IN PANAMA DURING THE EVENING OF NOVEMBER 6 FOR A WEEK'S VISIT AT THE PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY'S INVITATION. FBIS NOVEMBER 7, QUOTING HAVANA PRELA, REPORTED THE VISIT, INDICATING TORRAS WOULD "HOLD MEETINGS WITH IMPORTANT PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS AND WILL MAKE PROTOCOLARY VISITS TO OFFICIALS OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT." PANAMANIAN PRESS, HOWEVER, MADE NO MENTION OF THE VISIT UNTIL NOVEMBER 12 WHEN A PICTURE OF TORRAS AND ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER CARLOS OZORES APPEARED ON FRONT PAGES OF THE "LA ESTRELLA," "STAR AND HERALD" AND "MATUTINO." NOTE UNDER PICTURE CRIPTICALLY NOTED THAT TORRAS AND OZORES HAD LUNCH TOGETHER AND DISCUSSED SUBJECTS AFFECTING DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

2. UNTIL TODAY NEWS OF VISIT HAD BEEN "CLOSEHOLD" WITHIN GOP. SOURCE CLOSE TO GOP TOP LEADERS, IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUERY NOVEMBER 10, SAID HE WAS UNAWARE OF TORRAS VISIT. WE
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EXPECT TO HAVE CONVERSATIONS WITH PERSONS DURING NEXT TWO DAYS

WHO HAVE MET WITH TORRAS AND WILL OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT THE VISIT.
JORDEN

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Message Attributes

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